



Department of Defense Environmental Data Quality Workgroup Quality Systems Manual for Environmental Laboratories

The Department of Defense (DoD) Environmental Data Quality Workgroup (EDQW) is seeking comment on [draft version 2](#) of the *Quality Systems Manual for Environmental Laboratories*.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Based on the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC) Quality Systems Standards and ISO/IEC Guide 25.
- Harmonizes laboratory quality systems requirements issued by DoD Components.
- Serves as a standard reference for DoD representatives that design, implement, and oversee contracts with environmental testing laboratories.
- Incorporates the June 2000 NELAC Quality Systems Standards, revises the "clarification boxes," and adds four new DoD technical appendices.

AN APPROACH THAT BENEFITS ALL: STANDARDIZATION OF PROCESSES

The Quality Systems Manual (QSM) represents the first DoD-wide policy for laboratories conducting environmental testing. Adherence to the QSM will allow contract laboratories to standardize quality systems to meet the requirements of multiple DoD Components. Quality systems audits by one Component will provide an acceptable baseline for all Components. Components may still conduct on-site assessments to evaluate project-specific requirements. Through this standardization, both government and private sector resources will be saved.

Version 1 of the QSM (October 2000) was formally issued in a memorandum from the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environmental Security) dated December 5, 2000. Efforts are underway to establish the QSM as a DoD Publication and incorporate it into the appropriate DoD Directives and Instructions for Environmental Security.

CHANGES SINCE VERSION 1

Draft version 2 has been modified to conform to the latest version of the NELAC Quality Systems Standards (June 29, 2000). Changes to the DoD text

boxes are highlighted as redline-strikeout text. In addition, the following technical appendices have been added:

- Appendix DoD-A – Reporting Requirements
- Appendix DoD-B – Quality Control Requirements
- Appendix DoD-C – Target Analyte Lists
- Appendix DoD-D – LCS Control Limits

COMMENTS SOUGHT

The foundation language for the QSM comes directly from the NELAC Quality Systems Standards. The DoD clarifications and requirements are presented in text boxes throughout the document and in the DoD appendices. The EDQW is seeking comments on **the DoD text boxes and DoD appendices only**, as the remainder of the document is an official NELAC standard.

Comments are sought from the stakeholder community, including DoD Components, laboratories, the Environmental Protection Agency, state regulatory agencies, and any other public or private parties with an interest in the quality of analytical data. The EDQW is particularly interested in potential impacts:

- On the cost and quality of data analysis.
- On competition for business within the laboratory community.
- On innovation in analytical approaches as the community moves toward the use of performance-based measurement systems (PBMS).

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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